



## PANELIST BIO

# PEGGY ZONE FISHER

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Peggy Zone Fisher has been a Cleveland business and community leader for over thirty years. In March 2006, Peggy began a new chapter in her career by becoming the President and CEO of The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio. The Diversity Center is a human relations organization, founded in 1927 as The National Conference for Christians and Jews, and is dedicated to eliminating bias, bigotry, and racism in America. Each year DCNEO programs serve 10,000 northeast Ohio students and educators from over 150 schools and organizations in nine counties.

Peggy's business and community leadership was recognized nationally when President Bill Clinton appointed her as one of eleven National Commissioners of the White House Conference on Small Business. As a U.S. Small Business Commissioner, Peggy traveled the country convening forums with business leaders about small business issues.

Before beginning her post at DCNEO, Peggy served as the President and Owner of Zone Travel, Inc., one of Greater Cleveland's largest woman-owned businesses, from 1974 to 2005. Peggy chaired the Ohio Governor's Advisory Council for Travel and Tourism and led Ohio Governor Richard Celeste's China Trade Mission. She chaired the American Society of Travel Agents' Central Regional Conference in Cleveland, and served as a member of the National Travel Agents Advisory Board of Alamo Rental Car. She has advised Cleveland Mayors George Voinovich, Michael R. White, and Jane Campbell on travel and tourism issues.

The Women Business Owners Association honored her as one of the "Top 20 Women Business Owners in Northeast Ohio". She has received the YWCA Woman of Achievement Award as a Business and Industry Entrepreneur, the Captain Cleveland Award from the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland, and was the first recipient of the Today's Woman of Achievement Award from the Altrusa Club of Cleveland. Peggy also served on United Way's President's Council for Small Business Administration Leaders and the Leadership Council of the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE). Peggy received the 2008 Appeal for Human Relations "Distinguished Leadership Award" from the American Jewish Committee and, in 2009, the Community Service Award from the Cleveland Clinic Hospitals - Western Region and the Community West Foundation. Peggy and the work of The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio were recognized in 2011 at the Transgender Day of Remembrance with the "Illumination Award." Peggy received the "Celebrating Diversity Award 2014" presented by India Festival USA; the "Progressive Woman Award" from Smart Business Magazine Perspectives - Five Women Who Excel, and in 2015, the "Flourish Executive of the Year Award" at the Flourish Conference for Women in Leadership.

Peggy served as Co-Chair of Cleveland Mayor Michael White's 1990 Inauguration. Peggy is a 1981 graduate of Leadership Cleveland and currently serves as the Alumni Class President. She is past President of the bipartisan Cuyahoga Women's

Political Caucus, and was the first woman to serve on the Board of the Lutheran Medical Center Board of Trustees. She presented and assisted with the 2011 Federal Women's Program, "The Balancing Act of Leading Women," for the U.S. Department of Justice/FBI, and is also a graduate of the FBI Citizens Academy. Peggy, along with her husband Lee Fisher, was honored with the "Outstanding Leadership Award" from the Friends of the Cleveland School of the Arts. She was a delegate to the first-ever White House Conference on AIDS, and was honored by the AIDS Task Force of Greater Cleveland for her more than a decade of leadership on AIDS issues. Peggy and the Zone Family received the "2011 Art Cares Award" for their unwavering support of the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland. Peggy and Lee Fisher, received the "Movers and Shakers Award" from the Shaker Historical Museum in 2015.

Peggy has served on more than a dozen community boards such as AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, Community West Foundation, Neighborhood Progress, Inc., and Adoption by Gentle Care, just to name a few. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Cleveland Clinic Hospitals-Western Region. She is a Member of the Diversity Advisory Council for the MetroHealth Medical Center, and a Member of the Membership Impact Committee for the Greater Cleveland Partnership. Peggy is a frequent guest on Northeast Ohio television and radio news programs, and has been profiled in many publications addressing business and diversity issues. She continues to share her expertise with the community through her numerous speaking engagements.

Peggy is a graduate of The Ohio State University. A Cleveland native, Peggy is the daughter of Michael and Mary Zone (both deceased), who served on Cleveland's City Council for a total of twenty-one years. She is married to Lee Fisher, Dean and Joseph C. Hostetler - BakerHostetler Chair in Law, Cleveland Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University. They have two children, Jason (daughter-in-law Katelyn) and Jessica.